

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 35 and 36 with the following amended paragraph:

CoA sodium salt (2 mg) and 1 mg of L-serine were dissolved in 5 mL of 100 mM HEPES-NaOH buffer (containing 10 μ M PLP; pH 8.0) and well stirred using a magnetic stirrer. A solution prepared by dissolving 3.5 mg of thiophenyl palmitate in 5 mL of hexane was mixed therewith. While the stirring speed was reduced to such an extent that a mild mixing was resulted, 0.5 mL of a crude SPT enzyme solution was added and the mixture was made to react at 37°C for 24 hours. The solution was made ~~acidic~~alkaline with 1 mL of 2N ammonia solution and the product in the solution was extracted and recovered with 5 mL of chloroform/methanol (2:1, (v/v)). The extract was filtered, concentrated appropriately and 3-ketodihydrosphingosine was quantified by the same manner as in Example 3 whereupon the produced amount was about 2.2 mg.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 43 and 44 with the following amended one:

A solution of 42 mg of 3-hydroxyvalerate thiophenyl ester dissolved in 1 ml of acetonitrile was added to a solution of 79 mg of coenzyme A sodium salt dissolved with stirring in 2 ml of 100 mM calcium phosphate buffer (pH 8.0) in a small glass bottle. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for three hours and then 0.53 ml of 1M phosphoric acid was added thereto. The mixed solution was washed with 2 ml of diethyl ether for three times and evaporated *in vacuo* to give 33 mM of ~~3-hydroxybutyrate~~3-hydroxyvalerate CoA thioester solution.